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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 09/893,559 | 06/29/2001 | Jong Sang Baek | 8733.448.00 | 5057 |
| 30827 | 7590 | 10/07/2008 | | |
| MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP 1900 K STREET, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20006 | | | EXAMINER BECK, ALEXANDER S | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 09/893,559 | Applicant(s) BAEK ET AL. | |
| | Examiner ALEXANDER S. BECK | Art Unit 2629 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 September 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 18-35 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 January 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on Sept. 12, 2008 has been entered. Claims 12-35 are currently pending, of which claims 18-35 are withdrawn, and an Office action on the merits follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 12-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As to claim 12, it is unclear as to how the absence or the presence of the input signal can be determined if the **number of pulses** of the signal of the first state is not less than a predetermined plural number during a predetermined interval, wherein the **pulses of the signal of the first state continuously have same values**. Examiner respectfully submits that a pulse is a waveform changing from a first value to a second value. Thus, for there to be more than one pulse (e.g., pulses) it is unclear as to how these pulses can continuously have the same values. Rather, examiner respectfully submits that if a pulse were to be of a first state and **continuously have same values**, then it would simply be

one long pulse rather than a number of pulses. Claims 14 and 16 are rejected under the same rationale.

For the purposes of examination, claims 12, 14 and 16 will be interpreted as if the **number of continuous values** of the first state is not less than a predetermined plural number during a predetermined interval, wherein the pulses of the signal of the first state continuously have same values.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 12-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,279,035 to Skerlos (“Skerlos”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,713,040 to Lee (“Lee”).

As to claims 12, 14 and 16, Skerlos discloses a method of driving a display comprising: receiving an input signal having a first period corresponding to a number of lines in the display; and comparing the first period with a reference period (Skerlos, col. 11, ll. 12-18). Moreover, Skerlos discloses outputting a signal of a first state (e.g., ‘ok

pulse flag') only if the first period is indicative of an input signal presence (e.g., vsync); and determining the absence or the presence of the input signal according to the number of the signal of the first state during a predetermined interval (e.g., number of pulses, at least one for presence and none for absence) (Skerlos, Table 1).

Furthermore, examiner respectfully submits that Skerlos discloses determining the absence or the presence of the input signal if the number of continuous values of the signal of the first state is not less than a predetermined number during a predetermined interval, wherein the pulses of the signal of the first state continuously have same values. For example, the claimed "predetermined interval" is broadly interpreted as the duration of the 'ok pulse flag' in Skerlos. Furthermore, the claimed "number of continuous values of the signal of the first state" is broadly interpreted as any duration of time during the "predetermined interval" at which the 'ok pulse flag' is actively high. Thus, if the duration of time is taken to be half the duration of the 'ok pulse flag', then it follows that there are two continuous values of the signal in the actively high state.

As such, examiner respectfully submits that in the above example, two continuous values of the signal of the first state are generated for an 'ok pulse flag' and are therefore indicative of vsync signal presence, whereas anything less than two continuous values (e.g., 0) are indicative of vsync signal absence. Thus, the presence of a vsync signal is determined if the number of continuous values of the signal is not less than two (e.g., "a predetermined plural number", as claimed).

Skerlos does not disclose expressly wherein the comparing of the first period with a reference period includes: determining only whether the first period is less than a first reference period; determining only whether the first period is greater than a first reference period; or determining only whether the first period is less than a first reference period and greater than a second reference period.

Lee, analogous in art with Skerlos, teaches/suggests a method of detecting the absence or the presence of different v-sync signals in Figures 3A and 3B, comprising:

receiving an input signal having a first period corresponding to a number of lines in the display; determining only whether the first period is less than a first reference period; determining only whether the first period is greater than a first reference period; and determining only whether the first period is less than a first reference period and greater than a second reference period (Lee, col. 4, ll. 7-67).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Skerlos such that the comparing of the first period with a reference period includes: determining only whether the first period is less than a first reference period; determining only whether the first period is greater than a first reference period; and determining only whether the first period is less than a first reference period and greater than a second reference period, as taught/suggested by Lee. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to detect the absence or the presence of a v-sync signal in the event that v-sync signals of more than one value may be received by the display (Lee, col. 1, l. 58 – col. 2, l. 12).

As to claims 13, 15 and 17, Skerlos teaches/suggests wherein the receiving, determining and outputting steps are repeated and determining if the first state is output a second time (Skerlos, col. 13, ll. 7-12).

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 12-17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALEXANDER S. BECK whose telephone number is (571)272-7765. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sumati Lefkowitz can be reached on (571) 272-3638. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Alexander S. Beck/
Examiner, Art Unit 2629